

EXHIBIT

DATE

HB

12  
3/26/13  
616

To: House Business and Labor Committee

3-23-13

Re: Support for HJ18

My name is Al Zepeda, and I have asked Tony Herbert to present this testimonial on behalf of myself, and my business partner Patrick Offen.

On December 15, 2012 Patrick and I entered into a buy/sell to purchase two commercial lots in Lolo Montana, with the intent of bringing Lolo Peak Brewing Company, a new business venture into our community.

We closed on the property on March 15, 2013.

Our project is unique in one aspect: Our development plan for this newly acquired property also includes the Ponderosa Trail Townhomes, a 23 townhome development.

(see addendum- Ponderosa Trail Townhomes).

I think it is important to distinguish our intent to bring a brewery, not a bar to this development and to the Lolo community, a distinction that is lost to me as I read HB 616 and contemplate it's future implication.

HB 616 stands directly in the way of bringing Lolo Peak Brewing Company into existence.

Our initial investment in the brewery, with the purchase of the land, including development will be well over a million dollars, with over \$250,000.00 budgeted for brewing equipment alone. Currently, we have over \$325,000 invested into bare land, and if HB 616 is put into law, it will kill this Brewery from bringing jobs and revenue to a much needed community.

Additionally, HB 616 will put the Ponderosa Trail Townhomes on indefinite hold and in direct peril of becoming reality (for a list of affected business, see addendum-list).

My community needs growth through investment, through new construction, through new business. I suspect yours does too. And yet that is what HB 616 is designed to kill. Not only will you be killing this project in my community, you will be killing it in yours. With the current economic climate we all share, I ask you, can we really afford to do that?

HJ18 is needed to review the various alternatives available to get his right for Montana for this important and growing industry.



We oppose HB616 and support HJ 18 and ask that you do too.

With Respect,

Al Zepeda  
4900 Hugo Way  
Lolo, Mt 59847  
(406) 880-7115  
[flyfishermanslodge@gmail.com](mailto:flyfishermanslodge@gmail.com)



---

Patrick Offen  
1930 Trail Street  
Missoula, Mt 59801  
(406) 370-2598  
[patrick@wmtinsurance.com](mailto:patrick@wmtinsurance.com)



---